TUESDAY December 24, 1901. CROSBY S. NOIES Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined cir-culation of the other Washington Mailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

ITIn order to avoid delays on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the Mee, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Departments, according to tenor or purpose

The Personal Tax.

The proposition to draft a personal tax

law to meet the objections raised by the District courts to that now on the statute books comes at an interesting stage of the District's financial experience.

The District is already heavily taxed, and the revenue from this taxation is, in ordinary circumstances, more than sufficient to meet its budget requirements. For the District has for a number of years raised more money by both real estate and personal taxation than the government, through Congress, has been willing to meet dollar for dollar, in accordance with the spirit and letter of the organic act of local government. Under these circumstances. It is somewhat difficult for the intelligent Washingtonian to appreciate the necessity for the enactment and enforcement of a personal tax law, which, in effect, will only increase the margin of the revenues of the District over and above the annual expenditures, accumulating a surplus perhaps to tempt Congress into further violations of

the organic act. But if Congress is willing to proceed henceforth upon the principle of appropriating a dollar of government money for every dollar of District money raised by taxation, the District is willing that the form of its taxation be changed in part if desired by Congress, so that a portion of its burden shall fall upon a certain class of personal property, at the same time relieving the real property from a corresponding fraction of its present weight of assess-

The District, however, is not willing to submit to a personal tax law of the usual kind, inquisitorial, inequitable and provocative of perjury. Such a law is impossible of absolute enforcement. It engenders a disrespect for the taxing power of the municipality. It leads to evasions which. In their final effect, disturb the balance of the tax burden. The District will accept a personal tax law which assesses only the tangible property of the citizens, that which the assessors can see and the value of which they can reliably estimate. The operation of such a law need not be oppressive, save as it may lead to a local taxation excessive in the aggregate.

It must be remembered that Washington has in the years past raised a considerable part of its revenue from personal taxation According to the census of 1890 its assessed personal property equaled in value those of Denver and Omaha combined, with a combined population of 247,165 as against 188,932 for Washington. Its assessed personal property exceeded those of Omaha, Des Moines, Kansas City, Kas., and Seattle, each the largest and wealthiest city in its state, with a combined population of 271,932. It exceeded that of Buffalo, with 66,000 more population. It was only a slight fraction less than that of Brooklyn, with more than four times the population of Washington.

So It is to be seen that Washir atlon, despite the fact that its real estate another. If more is raised in the aggregate future, as in the past, there should be a Congress is prepared to meet the total of the District's revenues with an equal amount, and to apply the sum to the maintenance and improvement of the District in strict accordance with the organic act, Washington is doubtless willing that part of its tax burden be changed in character and levied on a personal tax basis, along the lines of the proposed measure.

A Greeting to a Household Hero.

As the man with the bundle trudges home smuggles his contrahand across the doorstep frontier, he is filled with a sense of happiness such as comes from no other performance the year through. He has spent freely of his means to make others joyful. He has perhaps trimmed a Christmas tree for the little folks, and hung it heavy with toys and books and the hundreds of things that make child-life blessed. He has bethought him of the tastes and needs of those near to him, and has provided generously for all. He has handed over funds to those dependent upon him so that in turn they may bestow gifts upon him and others. He rests content this night, for he has done his full duty in keeping up a custom which should never be permitted to fall into disuse.

Christmas giving has become an institution, and the man with the bundle is the token of it. He is the real hero of the period, the patient father, brother, son or uncle, willing if need be to don the battencovered robe and flowing beard and play proxy for the knight of the bountiful bag. At this season of the year the spirit mellows with good cheer and kindliness. Dignity has lost its bearings. The man who cannot unbend today and tomorrow, in recognition of the spirit of the occasion, must indeed be hardened. The season invites repentance and resolves for better life, the breaking down of prejudices and barriers, the smoothing of the path of

May the man with the bundle have a merry Christmas! He has earned it as he rests tonight from his toils for the hap-

Richard Croker may or may not be able to help his friends very substantially in the feture. But he evidently expects to be more or less active in paying off old scores

Senator Hanna and Senator Foraker may

bury the hatchet, but each may make an effort to keep the handle nearest himself.

Mr. Croker's Cold Reception. Richard Croker has returned from Indiana somewhat depressed in spirits. His visit was a failure. He went for a conference and for consolation, and he obtained neither. He saw Thomas Taggart, but the political leaders invited by Mr. Taggart to meet the Tammany boss as a rule excused themselves. Only a few accepted, and they did so more out of courtesy to Mr. Taggart than from any real desire to meet Mr. Croker. His reception being cold, and the weather bitter, the Tammany boss tarried but a few

days, and then said good-bye. Two reasons are offered for the failure of the visit. The first is that the Indiana democrats are not now ready to discuss the next presidential race. They have not been prospering of late years, and their misfortunes have made them cautious and conservative. They have been studying Davy to be right next time before they go an

through they will be in no frame of mind for conferences or castle-building.

The second reason is that Mr. Croker was regarded as abroad on an anti-Hill crusade. The Indianians are not represented as being particularly fond of Mr. Hill, but they are in no mood to listen to any assaults on the man, nor to commit themselves against him at this stage of the game. Besides, they remember that Mr. Croker's anti-Hil sentiments have never benefited the party to the slightest extent. Last year they were expensive. They cost the party dearly at Kansas City, first by keeping Mr. Hill off the platform committee, and then by forcing him to the front for the vice presi-Mr. Hill declined to run on the ticket with Mr. Bryan on a free silver platform, and that necessarily indicated his opinion of the hopelessness of the contest before the people. Mr. Croker returned home after his fatuous maneuvering, and had the mortification of seeing the state give over a hundred thousand majority

against the democratic ticket. Why should the democratic party in Indiana, or elsewhere, confer with the boss of Tammany Hall on the subject of national politics? What are his claims to consideration? He has no views of value as to measures, and his associates at home are of only local political consequence. He controls his organization, but it stands for no principles of any kind. It is for gold or

free silver, free trade or protection, expansion or anti-expansion, anything or nothing as the situation may invite. What the democratic party now needs is a platform acceptable to the progressive sentiment of the country, and a leader to match. Mr. Croker is hardly a judge of either.

Cleaning the Metropolis.

The reform administration will take charge of New York city's affairs next week, with a fair headway already secured in the work of purifying the police force. During the past few weeks two wardmen and one captain have been convicted on charges implicating them in working the great game of "graft" whereby an unknown number of politicians and heelers have been enriched at the expense of the moral tone of the metropolis. The third conviction came Saturday night under circumstances which may lead to important disclosures re garding the character of the police force under Tammany rule. It was learned by a watchful observation of affairs in the court room during that trial that the policemen called as witnesses were being constantly coached as to their answers by three members of the force in citizens' clothes who sat among the spectators. A code of signals had been devised, but it did not work perfectly, for some of the witnesses were incapable of adjusting the three answers agreed upon, "I don't remember," "yes' and "no," to the rapid-fire of cross questions of the prosecution and became confused. It is regarded as probable that prosecutions on a large scale for perjury and subordination of perjury will shortly be

Mayor Low has named his assistants and they are favorably regarded by the better class of citizens as honest, capable men. They represent all shades of party opinion, save that of Tammany, and they are drawn from the best business and professional life of the city. They should give the city an administration of affairs such as it has never yet enjoyed. But while the public is concerned more or less directly in charities, bridges, buildings, schools, taxes and the like, the chief point of interest both in and out of New York is the police force. Will it be purified and placed upon a high plane of honest efficiency, or will it be tainted still by the Tammany methods? Will the past errors and crimes be expo not in the past escaped heavy personal tax- full or will the new administration simply seek to start afresh and close the old rec assessment was always high and its net tax ords? It is hoped that this administration burden was equal to the average of the of Mayor Low will not only give New York American cities. It matters but little, in good government for two years, but will the abstract, to Washington, whether it so thoroughly expose the villainies of Tamaffairs of the city. To this end the prosecutions should not cease until every man of the crew of official corruptionists, blackscaling of the tax burden, not an increase, mailers, protectors of vice and abettors in as is now proposed. If, on the other hand, crime has been sent to the penitentiary, whatever his rank or station.

A "Green Christmas." This promises to be a "green Christmas," old-fashioned folks so sincerely But there is a marked falling off from the faith in the old gruesome adage about such weather at this season, and doubtless there are many hearts made light today by the prospect that tomorrow will be dry and bright and mild. The bitter cold of last week, followed by the drizzle this evening, his last purchase made, and | and sleet yesterday gave some promise that there would be snow. But today's sun brought happiness to the merchants, to whom a bad day in the pre-holiday season means a loss which is never fully regained. Washington has had, from all accounts and perhaps even exceeding the record of all other years. The evidences of prosperity are unmistakable.

> Philanthropy is no doubt often impose upon. But a great deal of mistaken charity is not so bad as a little bit of indifference to real suffering. It is best, at all seasons, and especially at this time, to be on the

The latest malady is known as the "automobile squint." Something like it may be caused by the number of times an ordinary person has to look at the price tags before he can see his way clear to a purchase.

A New York assemblyman desires to in troduce a bill to prevent the performance of immoral plays. He will of course be accused of trying to invite a corps of lobbyists from the "Rialto."

Congress has so much business of an urgent and practical nature on hand that it may not feel like giving all the attention

Chauncey M. Depew is away over in Europe where they do not understand English and are not likely to disturb him with demands for after-dinner speeches.

Unfortunately, China's calendar is so arranged that it cannot get in line with the rest of the world and turn over a new leaf on New Year day.

Office seekers should consider that the President's immediate family gives him ample employment in the Santa Claus line.

When Sir Thomas Lipton issues a challenge, the privilege of a renewal after the contest will always be understood.

The Filipinos made a great mistake in not trying to be good before Christmas.

The Cry of "Wolf."

Some people have peculiar ideas of humor. The practical joker constantly illustrates this truth, often to the serious embarrassment and even the injury of others. The young woman who reported that she had been assaulted in one of the city parks evidenly belongs to this class of persons. She doubtless did not realize the full extent of the alarm which her story was certain to spread. The tale she told was circumstantial, and was immediately accepted as true. There was no reason to doubt it. The con sequences were immediate, with the police stirring themselves to find the assailant and people growing more apprehensive of their Crockett's famous admonition. They want personal safety. It is to be hoped that this

spreading reports of crime which have no coundation in fact. The boy who continually cried "wolf" when there was no wolf demoralized his companions until they gave no heed to his shouts. The fable has its application in the present case. A few false alarms of crime will weaken the confidence of the police in the citizens, and this confidence is as important to preserve as that of the citizens in the police. There must be good faith on both sides, to produce the pest results of protection and detection. There is if force today a law which punshes those who turn in fire alarms without occasion. Why should not a similar law be justifiable to apply to the case of any one who deliberately starts the police upon a false scent for a criminal who does not exist?

New York desires a new post office. In his particular it shares the sentiments of a large number of more or less populous communities.

Washington has just enough severe weather during the winter to accommodate the people who like skating now and then.

The average citizen has his mind too full of shopping cares at this immediate time to care much about political discussions.

The Sultan of Jolo is glad that the Christmas gift custom has not yet made its way into his numerous household.

Scarcely a day passes that some one does not think of something more "that Congress ought to attend to."

Venezuela promises to become important is the enfant terrible of nations.

SHOOTING STARS.

Gossip. "Mr. Meekton's wife said yesterday that she was never going to speak to him again," said the woman. "You don't say so!" exclaimed her hus-

band. "Is she angry, or trying to be con-A Limited Flushness. This is the time when dull distress Must yield to song and joke. You feel a flush of happiness, But otherwise you're broke.

Patience. "I never lose my temper when a man nsults me," said Broncho Bob.

"But you didn't waste any time on Coyote "No. But I didn't lose my temper. I've learned by experience that nothing keeps a man from shooting straight like losing his

Careless of Santa Claus. "Little Billy Billions is crying as if hi

leart will break," said one nurse maid. "What's the matter?" asked the other. "He's jealous of little Tommy Trillions next door. He thinks the railroad bonds Tommy got in his Christmas stocking will pay bigger dividends than the corporation stock that Santa Claus left him."

To Be Considered. "I see that your town has been considering the idea of imposing a tax on bache-

'Yes," answered the young woman. we thought it over, and we concluded that the men might be mean enough to take the money to pay it out of what they spend for caramels and theater tickets."

A Christmas Gift.

Good Santa Claus, I shall not ask For gifts upon the Christmas tree. For yours must be a heavier task If you would bring good cheer to me. You will observe that when the rest In merriment surge to and fro, With careless song and idle jest.

I linger near the mistletoe. No bauble fine from meat or wine I seek to value as mine own. The gift for which I now repine

I'd cherish, to the world unknown. And though 'twere given half in fun 'Twould set my heart with hope aglow. So Santa, let your best be done,

I linger near the mistletoe. Sky Scrapers.

From the Springfield Republican. When a man buys a plot of ground he buys up to heaven, unless local enactment of a police nature limits the height of build-ings; and as land is exceedingly valuable and grows more so on the lower end of Manhattan Island the financial inducement Manhattan Island the financial inducement to build to the sky becomes greater and greater. It might be supposed that the sky-scraper building in New York city had reached its limit in the towering and defacing structures of the Manhattan Life, Home Insurance and Park Row buildings, to mention no others, but not so, apparently. At least a Boston man is causing a sensation in metapolitic party of the sky party of ing a sensation in metropolitan real estate circles with a plan to put up a building of fifty-four stories on lower Broadway, and he is said to be having success in enlistpoint the project is perfectly feasible, and with the money nothing more would prevent carrying it out. It is difficult to vent carrying it out. It is difficult to realize the stupendous measures of such a structure. It would be some 700 feet high altogether, the plan being to build up thirty-five stories on the full dimensions of a 200-foot plot of ground, and then raise a nine-teen-story building of smaller dimensions on top of the other. The height of the proposed building may be better understood when it is said that it would fully equal the combined height of the Manhattan Life and Park Row buildings, at present the and Park Row buildings, at present the highest in the world. We shall yet see, no doubt, some such a tower of Babel rising up toward the zenith from the lower end of Manhattan Island.

Our National Capital. Julian Ralph in the New York Mail and Express. We have developed a habit of saying that Washington is the most beautiful city of the country. It is not, but it bids fair to become so. It is only the newly built up northwest section that is beautiful, and that is indeed wary hard to match. St that is indeed very hard to match. St. Paul, Milwaukee, Chicago's North Side, Buffalo's best district, a bit of new St. Louis and several smaller towns all possess very fine districts. But the circles and statues in Washington's faubourg of rich statues in Washington's faubourg of rich dwellings give it a tremendous advantage and render that bit of the capital unequaled. For the rest the capital reminds me of a ragged boy with an angel face. Its extremities are shabby and its body is by no means either beautiful or finished. Pennsylvania avenue must in time become an imperial thoroughfare, but just now it is out at the knees and made up of ill-assorted buildings.

Death From Shock.

From the New York Herald. The death of Judge McAdam, following The death of Judge McAdam, following so soon after a surgical operation, illustrates an accident due to what is generally understood as secondary shock. As there was no way of foreseeing such a condition there was no way of guarding against it. Not infrequently, as in the instance in point, there is a good promise of rallying, when quite suddenly the vital powers flag and collapse very quickly occurs. There is always a great difference in the tolerance of pain and shock by different persons. Oftentimes apparently strong individuals succumb very readily and debilitated ones successfully weather the storm.

The Season. From the New York Tribune. Holly and mistletoe and fir all about us. And the true Kriss Kringle spirit in the

New Jersey Incorporations. the Philadelphia Ledger. Let Jersey incorporate a company, and she does not care where it operates.

A Hunt for Microbes. From the Indianapolis News. Germany is again on the hunt for mi-crobes in our meat.

Gen. Chaffee's Idea. According to General Chaffee the only safe plan is to bind and gag the Filipino as Owen. Ladies & Men. 423 11th St.

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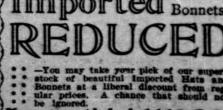
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